



Indiana Department of Education

Glenda Ritz, NBCT

Indiana Superintendent of Public Instruction

Monthly Happenings Office of English Learning and Migrant Education

January 2015

Charlie Geier, Rachel Davidson, Nathan Williamson, Bree Ausenbaugh

ACCESS Materials

Corporation Testing Coordinators received emails regarding the shipment of ACCESS for ELLs, tracking information, and the specific assessment serial numbers assigned to the school corporation. If you need assistance or have questions about the order, the CTC or EL Coordinator can call (800) 47-4868 and ask for WIDA Customer Service or email at wida@metritech.com.

Accommodations for ELs with Disabilities

The WIDA test administration manuals and the training courses to certify for ACCESS both have information regarding accommodations for ELs with disabilities. These policies and procedures vary according to state laws, so please refer to Indiana's specific "Accommodations for ELs with Disabilities" as the primary source, which you can find in the WIDA-ACCESS Learning Connection Community under resources, [IDOE's webpage](#) under assessment, and the Indiana specific page on [WIDA's website](#) under assessment materials & training.

As a reminder, most English learners do not have disabilities and will not receive additional accommodations on WIDA ACCESS, as it is already designed as a test for limited English proficient students. All limited English proficient students are required to participate, including students with disabilities per IDEA and Article 7. If a limited English proficient student has a significant cognitive disability, WIDA has an alternate version called Alternate ACCESS, and this information was shared through the IDOE Offices of Special Education and Assessment.

Check out these great opportunities for professional development!

- Feb 7-10, 2015 *National Reading Recovery & K-6 Literacy Conference*; Columbus, OH. Click [HERE](#) for more information.
- Visit the [WIDA Download Library](#) and view the Indiana specific webinars under the "State/District" webinars on the bottom right hand side. Participants will need a login to view the webinars and resources, which they can get from their EL or Corporation Test Coordinator.
- An updated version of the EL guidebook is posted at www.doe.in.gov/elme

WIDA Brief: Focus on Technology

Today, a plethora of educational tech tools exists. It can be overwhelming to determine which may be productive to include in a classroom, which could help ELLs achieve their language goals as well as it can be a bit intimidating to know where to start. In this [bulletin](#), we explore the use of tech tools in the classroom with ELL students and offer a tool to help educators evaluate tech tools for learning and academic language. Also included are excerpts from an interview with gaming scholar, Constance Steinkuehler, lessons learned from using technology in the classroom, and suggested steps for getting started or digging deeper.

[Extended interview with Constance Steinkuehler](#)

Reallocated NESP and Title III Funds

Reallocated funds and instructions for applying were made available to school corporations on 12-31-14. **The deadline to apply for reallocated funds is 1-31-15.**

Reminder to Certify to Administer ACCESS

ACCESS for ELLs is our new English language proficiency annual assessment, and any licensed educator who is administering the test must certify. You can obtain a login through your Corporation Testing Coordinator or your EL Coordinator. **As of January 9, 2015, we have 3,838 educators who have certified in at least one portion of administering ACCESS! Keep up the good work!** Remember that you only have to certify in the portions of ACCESS that you will be administering. Refer to the the "Training Course" tab for further instructions.

Webinars

The IDOE held technical assistance webinars regarding our transition to WIDA ACCESS. Finalized versions can be found WIDA-ACCESS Learning Connection Community under resources, [IDOE's webpage](#) under assessment, and the Indiana specific page on [WIDA's website](#) under assessment materials & training. These webinars cover reminders of legal requirements for testing, who can administer the tests, and its purpose.



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Family and Community Engagement

The IDOE Family and Community Engagement initiative is being rolled out in January 2015. The vision of the FACE initiative is to assist the Division of School Improvement with an intentional approach to family and community engagement. Our mission is to serve all Indiana schools, including Focus and Priority Schools, with improving their family and community engagement initiatives. In addition to identifying and designating applicable schools as "Family Friendly," we will create and share a statewide framework for Family and Community Engagement.

Read more here:

<http://www.doe.in.gov/outreach/familyfriendly-schools-program>

If you have any questions or in need of additional support in the area of Family and Community Engagement, please contact:

Leroy Robinson
Director of Family and Community Engagement

Phone: 317-234-5663

lrobinson@doe.in.gov

Resource

Indiana Center for Family, School & Community Partnerships released a recent resource titled *Lessons Learned: Working with Immigrant Families through Voices in Action*. The [resource](#) has valuable information on the need for engagement with families of English learners and suggestions for schools.

U.S. Departments of Education and Justice Release Joint Guidance

Read the [press release](#) from January 7, 2015 from U.S. ED and DOJ reminding states, school districts, and schools of their obligations under federal law to ensure that English learners students have equal access to a high-quality education and the opportunity to achieve their full academic potential. Fact sheets, in English and other languages, are included. The guidance reviews the obligations to identify ELs, provide language programs and qualified staff, avoid segregation, monitor progress, evaluate the program, provide information in a language parents can understand, and more. This is the first time that a single piece of federal guidance has addressed the array of federal laws that govern schools' obligations to English learners. The IDOE includes much of this information in its EL Guidebook at www.doe.in.gov/elme as well.

In the News

Chalkbeat Indiana takes a look at how [IPS](#) is seeking to shift the culture of serving English learners in the district.

Additional WIDA Opportunity

WIDA has a [professional certification program](#) where educators can gain additional expertise to create professional development opportunities for educators of ELLs using WIDA. The WIDA state relations specialist recommended this program to the IDOE as an opportunity for individuals to become empowered in their WIDA professional development and to gain a deeper understanding of the WIDA ELD standards framework.

ESEA Flexibility Waiver Corner

U.S. Department of Education announced to states with an approved ESEA Flexibility Waiver, that they can request a three-year renewal to extend their ESEA Flexibility Waiver through the 2017-2018 school year. States will have until March 31, 2015 to submit their extension request to the U.S. Department of Education. The Indiana Department of Education will be working with stakeholders as we move forward towards the submission of Indiana's extension. If you have ideas or input into changes for the ESEA Flexibility Waiver in regards to English learners, please send them to titleiii@doe.in.gov with the subject *ESEA Flexibility-English Learners*.

W-APT

LAS links placement tests may no longer be used by public schools **starting second semester**. Schools must have transitioned to using the W-APT (placement) to identify new students who are enrolling in an Indiana school for the first time and had a non-English language listed on their home language survey.

In order to administer W-APT, test administrators need to first certify to give ACCESS (see memo) and watch the very short webinars for W-APT found after you login to www.wida.us and click on W-APT.

The W-APT is downloaded from the WIDA website **by the corporation testing coordinator (CTC) or district EL director**. CTCs or district EL directors may choose to provide each school a copy of the W-APT to store securely at the school (i.e. locked filing cabinet).

In order to accurately score the W-APT, the test administrator **will need the WIDA test manual and the cut scores located in Indiana's WIDA Assessment and Accountability Transition** Guidance, found at IDOE's [website](#) and on [Indiana's page](#) of WIDA's website underneath assessment materials.

Legislative Updates

Several bills will impact English learners this session, which runs until April. Be sure to stay informed!